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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/811,851	03/30/2004	Hyun Sook Kim	1594.1361	2334
21171	7590	03/17/2008		
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER HECKERT, JASON MARK	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1792	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/17/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/811,851

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

JASON HECKERT

Art Unit

1792

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 6-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 6-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/16/08 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Due to the applicant's amendments to the claims, the previous rejections are rendered moot.

3. Applicant has included further limitations that the washing machine includes a key input device to receive washing courses according to materials of the laundry load. Frucco already disclosed that the control mechanism can control the various aspects of the laundering operation in response to the *selected* laundering programs in accordance with the characteristics, such as fabric type, and amount of laundry to be laundered (col. 4 lines 33-44). Duration and operation of pump recirculation is considered to be a standard wash parameter and Frucco has disclosed that the control mechanism controls pump operation as well as the operation of the other electric devices in the machine related to any *selected* laundering program (col. 2 lines 43-49). Additionally, a key input receiving wash courses according to materials was known at the time of the invention, and controlling a washing machine according to such characteristics was also

known, as evidenced by Kim et al. Thus, the further limitations of claim 1 do not present an unobvious modification over the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 1-2, 6-8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frucco in view of Kim et al. (Kim). Frucco discloses a washing machine with a drum 14 rotatably mounted in tub 4 along with a circulation pump 12 connected to a recirculation conduit 9 for pumping water contained in a lower part of the machine 6 back into the drum 14 (col. 2 lines 18-25). Frucco discloses that the water is sprayed (col. 2 line 23), and therefore a nozzle or equivalent fluid delivery device is inherent. Although Frucco does not disclose a motor for rotating the drum, the use of a motor to rotate said drum is inherent and Frucco does state that a control mechanism 17 automatically energizes or deenergizes the various electronic components in the washing machine such as the pump and presumably the motor, which is present in virtually every commercially available washing machine. Said control mechanism 17 is also used for controlling the amount of water to deliver to the tub as well as determining the amount of laundry (col. 4 line 28-30). Frucco discloses that the control mechanism can control the various aspects of the laundering operation in response to the *selected* laundering programs in accordance with the characteristics, such as fabric type, and amount of laundry to be

laundered (col. 4 lines 33-44). Duration and operation of pump recirculation is considered to be a standard wash parameter and it is disclosed that the control mechanism controls pump operation as well as the operation of the other electric devices in the machine related to any *selected* laundering program (col. 2 lines 43-49). Frucco does not disclose a key input unit provided with wash course buttons or fabric type buttons. Kim discloses a method for controlling a washing machine according to laundry characteristics, such as those based on type and fabric. Disclosed is a key input 10 with a set of keys for inputting material of the laundry. It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify Frucco and include a key input device that sets washing courses according to material of the load, as disclosed by Kim, in order to control the washing machine. Considering the combination of Frucco and Kim discloses all of the structures of the instant application, it is believed to be capable of operating in the same way. The manner in which an apparatus operates is not germane to the issue of patentability of the apparatus itself. *Ex parte Wikdahl* 10 USPQ 2d 1546, 1548 (BPAI 1989); *Ex parte McCullough* 7 USPQ 2d 1889, 1891 (BPAI 1988); *In re Finsterwalder* 168 USPQ 530 (CCPA 1971); *In re Casey* 152 USPQ 235, 238 (CCPA 1967). Furthermore, apparatus claims cover what a device is, not what a device does. *Hewlett-Packard Co. v. Bausch & Lomb Inc.* 15 USPQ 2d 1525 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *Demaco Corp. v. F. Von Langsdorf Licensing Ltd.* 7 USPQ 2d 1222, 1224-1225 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent 6,612,138 to Ryu et al. This publication shows the well-known motor that oscillates the drum in opposite directions. A recirculation system is also disclosed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON HECKERT whose telephone number is (571)272-2702. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 9:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr can be reached on (571)272-1414. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Barr/

Art Unit: 1792

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 1792

JMH